

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City
4 SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
5 First Regular Session
6 HOUSE BILL NO. **5298**
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9 INTRODUCED BY **REP. VINI NOLA A. ORTEGA**
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12 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**
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14 Our Philippine National Police have been in the forefront of the current
15 administration's relentless war against drugs. As a consequence of this war, our
16 law enforcers have not only suffered casualties but are even faced with legal and
17 administrative cases brought forward by those targeted by the war on drugs.
18 This effectively deters the unhampered implementation of their mandate.
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20 In order to sustain this relentless pursuit against lawless individuals
21 involved in drugs, it is not sufficient to merely arm our law enforcers with peace
22 keeping equipment. It is equally important and imperative to empower them
23 through sustained and continued legal assistance to eliminate fear of reprisal
24 through legalistic means.
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26 This may be achieved through the grant of scholarships for potential
27 qualified lawyer policemen who will render legal service to their fellow law
28 enforcers in cases arising in the performance of their official duties.
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30 Currently there are only Ninety-Five (95) lawyers in the entire Philippine
31 National Police providing legal assistance to our law enforcers. There are a total
32 of roughly One Hundred Seventy Thousand (170,000) active policemen in the
33 PNP right now. Given these numbers, it is evident that the legal arm of the
34 Philippine National Police is clearly inadequate to provide legal assistance that
35 our policemen direly need.
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Hence, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



REP. VINI NOLA A. ORTEGA

Representative
ABONO Party-list

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89 AN ACT
90 STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PHILIPPINE
91 NATIONAL POLICE WORKFORCE BY PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP
92 GRANTS FOR PROSPECTIVE LAWYER POLICEMEN IN STATE
93 UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
94 THEREFOR.
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98 **Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Legal Scholarship Grants to
99 the PNP Act of 2017”.

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102 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** –
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104 The Philippine National Police (PNP) shall enforce the law, prevent and
105 control crimes, maintain peace and order, and ensure public safety and internal
106 security with the active support of the community.
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108 In order to attain the PNP’s mandate unhampered by fear of legal reprisal
109 and unwarranted impediments, the State shall provide legal scholarship grants
110 to deserving and qualified policemen in state universities and colleges who will
111 in turn provide legal services and assistance to law enforcers in cases arising
112 from the performance of their official duties.
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115 **Section 3. Legal Scholarship Grants.** – This Act provides for full scholarship
116 grants to current active and qualified policemen for a four-year law school course
117 (post-graduate program) plus bar review course in state universities and
118 colleges, provided, that the applicants for the scholarship shall pass the entrance
119 examinations of the state university or college and comply with other necessary
120 requirements for admission in said state universities and colleges.

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122 The number of scholarship grants to be awarded shall be determined by
123 the Philippine National Police in coordination with other relevant government
124 agencies as may be necessary per region, province, city, or municipality, which
125 shall be indicated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

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128 **Section 4. Official Study Leave and Stipend** – Qualified recipients of the
129 scholarship grants shall be deemed on Official Study Leave during the period of
130 his or her legal education.

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132 The recipient shall likewise be entitled to a stipend per semester in a
133 reasonable amount to be determined by the State Universities and Colleges and
134 the Philippine National Police in coordination with other government agencies,
135 which shall be indicated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

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138 **Section 5. Scholarship Bond.** – Recipients who have successfully completed
139 the law school course and passed the bar examinations shall render mandatory
140 legal service in the Philippine National Police for the next four (4) years
141 immediately following his or her completion of the requirements of being a bona
142 fidé lawyer as enumerated under Rule 138 of the Rules of Court or as prescribed
143 by the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

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145 If the recipient is unable to render legal service in the Philippine National
146 Police or complete any portion of the period mandated thereof and he or she opts
147 to engage in the private practice of law instead, he or she shall repay the cost of
148 the scholarship grant awarded to him or her including all stipends accorded him
149 or her pro-rata.

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152 **Section 6. Appropriations.** – The initial funding for this Act shall be sourced
153 from the savings of State Universities and Colleges throughout the Philippines as
154 well as from other possible sources as may be determined by the Office of the
155 President. Thereafter, the funds necessary to effectively carry out the provisions
156 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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159 **Section 7. Implementing Agency.** – The Philippine National Police (PNP) in
160 coordination with other relevant government agencies, shall serve as the
161 implementing agency in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

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164 **Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days
165 after the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine National Police (PNP) in
166 coordination with other related government agencies, shall formulate the rules
167 and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

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170 **Section 9. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
171 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision thereof shall
172 remain valid and effective.

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175 **Section 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
176 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
177 circulation.

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180 Approved